

146: A BREAKING POINT REACHED

SKYBOUND



THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



CH 115

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD



146: A BREAKING POINT REACHED

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PREVIOUSLY:

Rick and his group bury what remains of their friends, lashing out at each other and struggling to find the proper response. Rick knows that this could ruin everything. They return to Alexandria to break the terrible news...

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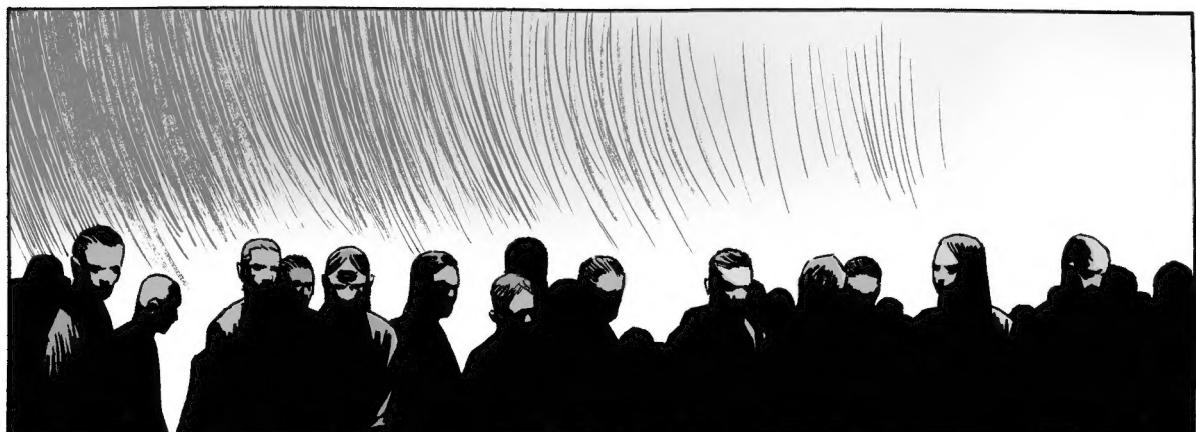


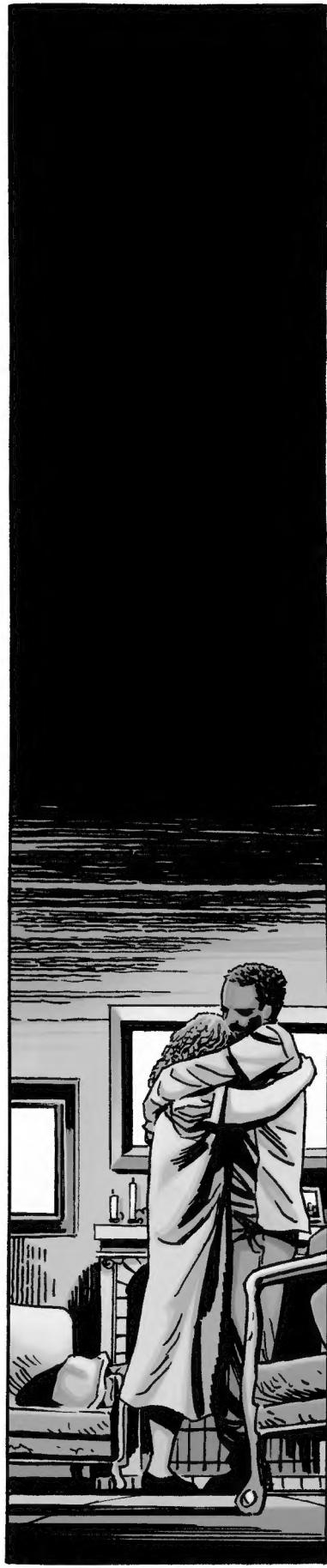
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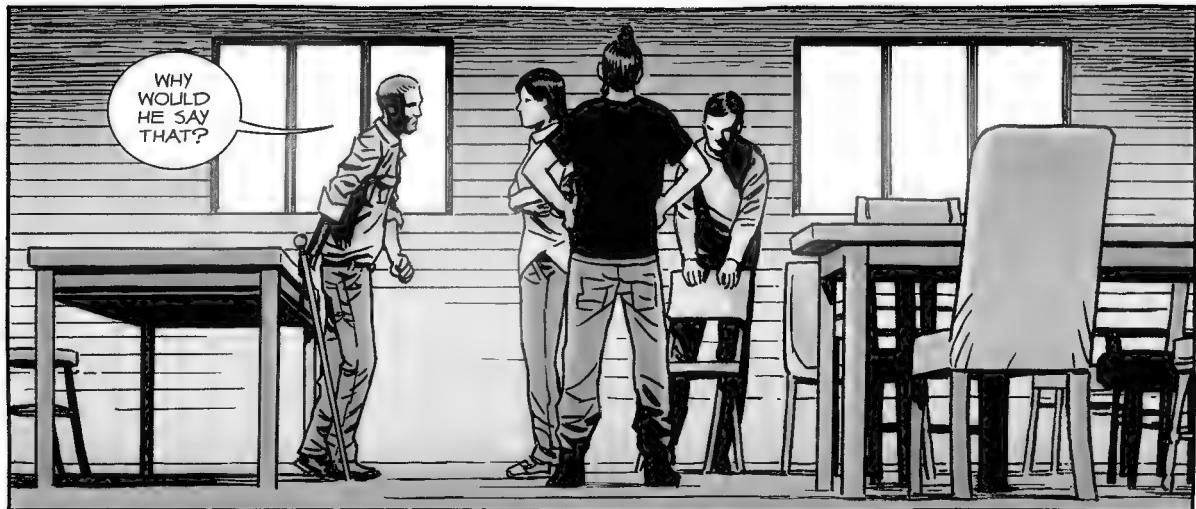
I'LL TELL YOU THE SAME THING I'VE TOLD EVERYONE.

IT'S NOT A POPULAR OPINION, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT THERE IS A LOT TO PROCESS HERE. WE'RE STILL TRYING TO APPROPRIATELY ASSESS THE SITUATION SO THAT WE CAN FIGURE OUT AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

ONE THAT WON'T PUT AT RISK EVERYTHING WE'VE BUILT... AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE UP THE COMMUNITIES WE CALL HOME.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THE DAY RICK GRIMES BECAME A FUCKING PUSSY.

MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR MAGGIE TO TAKE OVER ALL THE COMMUNITIES. SHE KNOWS HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A PROBLEM.





I EXECUTED
GREGORY.

WHAT ON EARTH
POSSESSED YOU
TO MAKE YOU THINK
THAT WAS A
GOOD IDEA?!

WHAT
HAVE I
BEEN SAYING
FOR ALL
THESE
YEARS?!



RICK--
YOU WANT TO GO
BACK TO THE WAY
THINGS **WERE**?! IS THAT
WHAT THIS IS?! YOU WANT
TO GET NEGAN AND
KILL HIM FOR WHAT
HE DID?

WHERE DOES
IT END? HOW FAR
BACK DO YOU WANT
TO GO? WANT TO
START KEEPING THE
DEAD IN A BARN LIKE
YOUR FATHER
DID?!



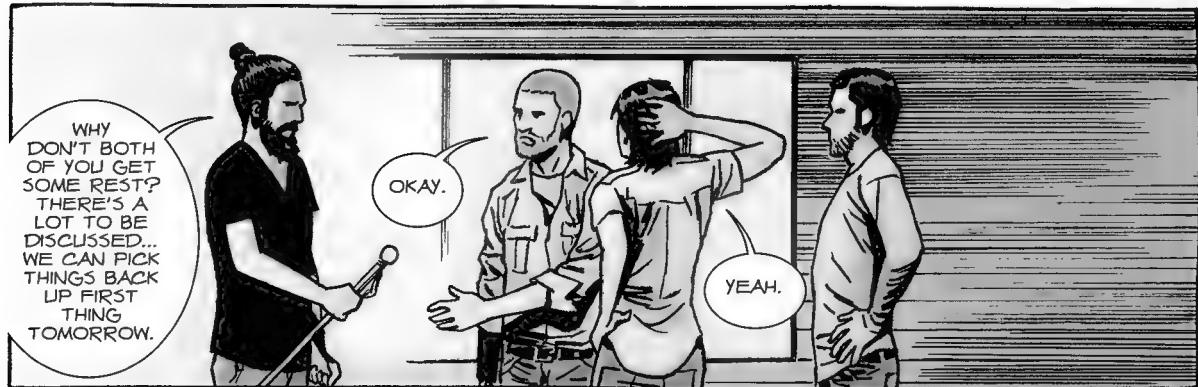


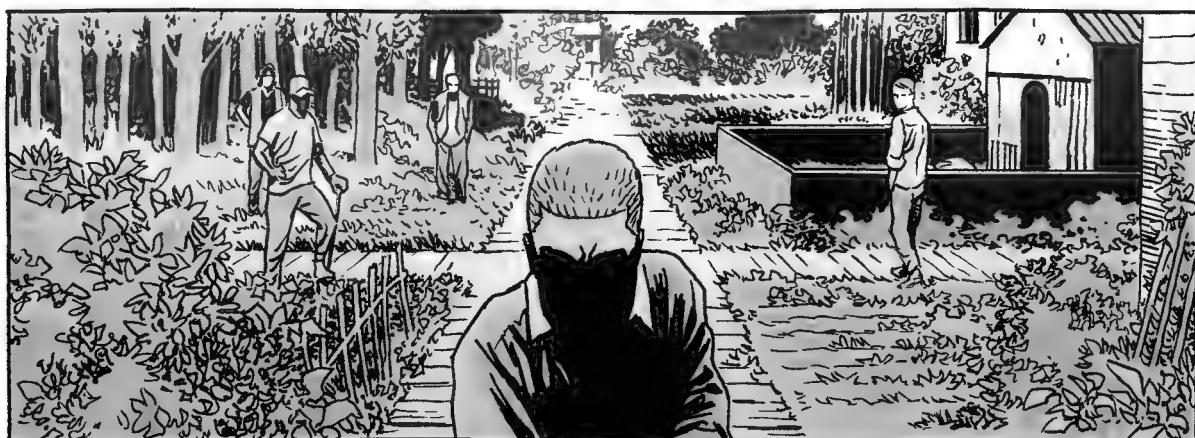


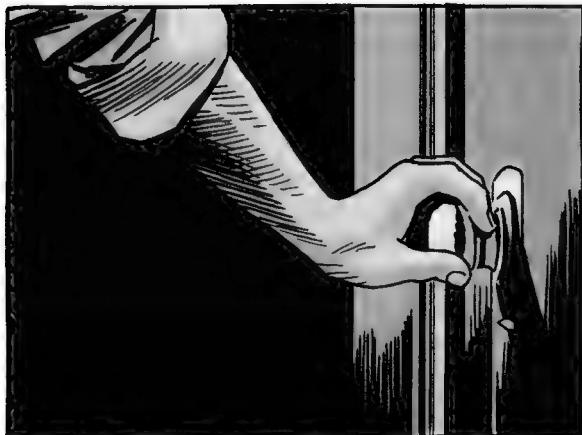


OH,
GOD...











I KNOW THE PEOPLE... THEY'RE CALLING FOR WAR, THEY WANT TO ATTACK NOW... THEY WANT TO GET US ALL KILLED.

THEY'RE NOT SMART PEOPLE.

BUT I AM. I KNOW WE NEED TO PLAN. WE NEED TO WAIT... WE NEED TO GET THINGS RIGHT. BUT IN THE END... I JUST HAVE TO BE SURE...



...THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE.

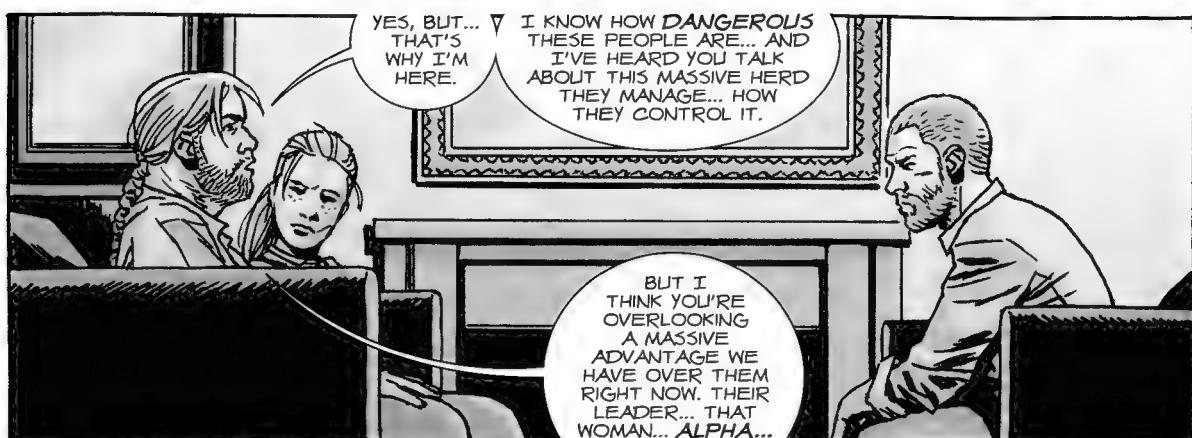


I PROMISE YOU WE FEEL THE SAME WAY.

THIS... IT CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED.



I KNOW THAT DOESN'T BRING YOU MUCH COMFORT. BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS HAS TO BE MANAGED VERY CAREFULLY.



YES, BUT... THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

I KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THESE PEOPLE ARE... AND I'VE HEARD YOU TALK ABOUT THIS MASSIVE HERD THEY MANAGE... HOW THEY CONTROL IT.

BUT I THINK YOU'RE OVERLOOKING A MASSIVE ADVANTAGE WE HAVE OVER THEM RIGHT NOW. THEIR LEADER... THAT WOMAN... ALPHA...



...WE
HAVE HER
DAUGHTER...

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Jeebus... is it time for readers' reactions to #144? It goes without saying that we received way more letters than normal... probably the most since #100. Most surprising thing? The outpouring of love for Rosita. Which I suppose shouldn't be all that surprising since she was first introduced almost 100 issues ago, and most folks in this book don't get that long.

You're surprised people love Rosita?! Rosita was awesome! She was... amazing and had... so much potential. I... well...

I think I've made a horrible mistake.

Well, too late now! Letters!

Dear Kirk & Co.,

What. The. Fuck. Just. Happened.

See, here I thought Alpha letting Lydia go with Rick to not be raped as often as Alpha clearly had been before she came to power showed that she had some humanity. That she wasn't quite as cruel as she was building up to be, but rather had to be hard and scary in order to protect herself and thought she was setting an example for her daughter. Then out of nowhere - BAM - we see she somehow managed to lead 12 characters away from the fair to behead them, including Ezekiel - who this never would have happened to without a damn tiger - and a pregnant Rosita!

You killed a pregnant woman! You killed Rosita! She was pregnant! And you killed her. Somehow THAT wasn't the full page head on a stake?! She was fucking pregnant, you killed her, and it was just the middle panel next to some guy with a braided goatee that screams 'I was really into System of a Down before the apocalypse happened'. Holy shit. You killed Rosita. And Ezekiel. And the guy that was probably going to start complaining that Magna was 'friend zoning' him because he just couldn't get it through his head that she wasn't that into him. And the beer guy. Two weeks ago some guy wrote a whole letter about how the brewer should have a more prominent position in the community, and then you went and killed the damn brewer. Heartless. You're a heartless killer, Kirkman.

There were two brewers! We only killed one of them!

So time to let Negan out of the cage, right? He's not the leader we want, but a 7 foot tall ping-pong loving psycho-killer has got to be a better match for these Whisperer fucks than an old cripple with a claw hand, right?

Whoa, we really have to wait a whole month now? Poor compendium readers.

Best,
Sean

Yeah, right? I'm hoping there's a lot of people that read Compendium 3 and then move right onto the single issues... fingers crossed. I just feel bad for anyone who will have to wait nearly four years for that follow-up.

Hey guys,

The 144 carnage has finally broken me down into writing in, and not even Glenn's untimely demise achieved that. After this atrocity we going to see some sort of evolution in Rick's ideas of leadership — I'm getting a Chamberlain/Churchill vibe that perhaps there are leaders suited to peacetime and others suited to conflict and Rick has to decide which he's going to be. I mean he's got a weapon of mass destruction with a penchant for melee combat (and endlessly creative swearer) living in his basement just waiting to be unleashed. I would say that Alpha wouldn't know what hit her, but I'm guessing Negan would spend at least a panel or two talking about using Lucille before doing so.

Keep up the relentless surpassing of expectations, Nick

Man, you guys really want Rick to let Negan go... don't you... hmmmmmm.

Man, fuck Negan. That walking turd's story is done and played out. I don't get why so many people want to see him have some bigger part in the story. What he needs is an embarrassing death, like tripping headfirst into the bucket in his cell and drowning. In any case, please let there be no alliance between him and Rick - at this point that would be on the level of "fan service", a bad and predictable trope to ruin a good story. I trust Kirkman to be a writer of greater cleverness and integrity than to allow his story to take such a hack turn.

Zedoror

Voice a contrary opinion, get printed! Right now a lot of folks are predicting that Alpha's massacre will lead to something with Negan... but only time will tell, won't it?

Only time will tell if I'm a hack or not! I'm on the edge of my seat!

Please draw me a picture of Ezekiel riding Shiva into the heavens. It will be the greatest piece of art, EVER.

Adam

That probably makes a better tattoo.

Well, I think it's time for you all to start requesting that from Charlie at conventions!

To Kirkman, Sean, and every other one of you who was responsible for this,

Bravo. You really had me there, I genuinely believe that Alpha was going to be docile and friendly with them from now on. But no, you had to go and do this. You killed Ken, the Goose to Marco's Maverick! Goose already died in the film, so why kill Ken as well? Also, I know this is asked every issue, but will we ever know who was going to be the father's baby? What with the whole thing of her being dead now, it seems like this will remain a mystery forever. In fact, was that why you killed her; so people would stop asking? Overall though, that issue rocked, a big well done to all of you who worked on it.

Ollie Whittall
United Kingdom

As a reader... I'd be pretty annoyed if I never revealed who the father was. That would be pretty terrible. So... y'know... stay tuned.

The Whisperer's storyline has been really intriguing so far! I was wondering, are Alpha's actions, as well as news of Gregory's execution, going to make Rick reconsider his "no killing" policy? Would anything make him change his mind to revert back to abiding by "you kill, you die" and if so, what?

Jenna Sutherlan
California

**We're sure going to test the boundaries, huh?
Especially when you see the cover to #149... that one will get folks talking...**

#144 was a fantastic issue but I kept wondering how Alpha managed to convince all those people to just wander off with her or most were probably surprise kidnappings, are we ever going to find out or will it be left ambiguous and were her choices completely random or did she knew who to kidnap and behead?

Stuart Steinberg,
Newcastle Upon Tyne

She would have used different tactics to get those people to a point where other Whisperers could overpower them and take them captive. She would have gone to Ezekiel and said she needed help with her lost child or anything to get him to follow her to a less populated place. And remember, the fair was set up outside of the fence and with so many people there... you wouldn't have to go too far out of the main area to find a fairly secluded place.

So there's no plan to go back and detail how it all went down. Alpha is very persuasive.

Dear Kirkman & Co.,

I can't believe you did it AND I can believe you did it! Of course, I'm talking about issue #144. So let me start off by saying that I am a high school English teacher who will do just about anything to inspire my kids to read and write. Walking Dead: Volume 1 is part of my repertoire thanks to my fantastic department chair. The Walking Dead is always a hit, because it covers so many themes, from survival, to race, to morality, and humanity. (And Volume 1 doesn't need censoring like some of the other volumes!) The Zombie genre in general does a great deal to propel discussions about race and culture in America.

I teach at a school that is 95% Latino. I work hard at being a good role model for them and providing examples for them to strive toward. For some kids, having someone of the same culture to identify with can be significant. So let me get to Rosita. Besides the Governor's henchman Martinez, she's the only Hispanic I've seen in the series. (I was holding out hope that Jesus was pronounced "Hey Zeus" because that would be a very positive role model for my kids!) We've discussed how your book is all-inclusive, with positive and negative examples of all people, and we've never found you slacking by giving us stereotypical characters. In fact, all of the characters are written so well, it doesn't matter what race they are because the good ones could all make great role models (who wouldn't want to be like Michonne?). I think it's easy for any reader to identify with Rick, and that's a testament to your writing. So, aside from being eye candy and having huge hoop earrings—our class discussions were negative regarding Rosita's role. Some of my kids reasoned that in a survival situation a beautiful, smart girl might "hunker" down with the strongest male she could find—AKA Abraham—which opened up a hailstorm of a discussion. Sadly, when the kids compared her character to Maggie and Andrea, it left her character lacking in depth and development.

AND NOW SHE'S DEAD! No chance at redemption; no chance to get to know her motivations or her origin (it would've been nice). I can only hope that the television series will shed some light on her. So what gives with her character? Any chance we'll see a strong Hispanic character or any chance you could change Jesus' name and his last name could be Mendoza? (Just kidding on that latter request.)

All that said, even the little bit you provided on Rosita is going to make for some more great discussions this coming school year. At the end of the day, she isn't just a Latina, she's human. And I think your series does a good job of making every character relatable. I'm not happy about her portrayal or demise, but I'll never be one of those "You killed them and I'm not reading your series anymore" kind of people.

I'm going to have the kids write a backstory for Rosita this year. We'll see how it goes. Keep it up the good work Kirkman! It's never a surprise that I'm always surprised when reading your book.

Marc Mendoza
San Antonio, TX

Dante is Latino! There is also Eduardo who mans the wall at the Hilltop, he was seen with Kal a lot. Also, Marco is Latino. So... there ARE other Latino characters. I'll miss Rosita as much as you guys will and I hate to agree with you, but yeah... I could have fleshed her out a little bit more. I think there has been a great deal of story involving her and there was a lot going on with her recently... but she's one of many characters that I've always felt I could do more with.

What's Gabriel been up to recently? For instance.

I will take a moment to defend Rosita in comparison to Maggie or Andrea. I think I've covered this in the letters column before, but I don't think her story, of her using her attractiveness to survive is anything but realistic. There are men and women who use their appearance to get ahead in a lot of areas of life. It might not be the most favorable portrayal of a female character in the book... but above all else, I try to be realistic in my treatment of all characters from all backgrounds.

I want all my characters to be well rounded and interesting... but this book will always have smart characters and dumb characters and weak characters and strong characters of all shapes sizes and colors.

But yes, as far as ethnicities go... this book needs more Latinos. We'll be working on that moving forward.

Hi Kirkman and Friends! (New Episodes @ 7)

I just finished reading 144 and Ho-lee wow. If you told me that twelve important characters died in one issue of The Walking Dead before July 8, 2015, I would have double checked my calendar to make sure it wasn't April 1, 2015.

I gotta say, Alpha's a bit nuts. I get the sense that she wants a sort of Cold War between the Whisperers and Rick and Friends (New Season this Fall), but killing that many of his buddies is not the way to make him not want to kill you.

I like the Cold War theory... except I really don't think she views Rick and Friends as a major threat at all. More that she thinks this one act would demoralize them completely and make them docile. Except she really doesn't know who she's fucking with, right?

Here's hoping Rick will realize what an opportunity he has with the knowledge of Alpha's horde. I've been talking with my brother and Dad, who read it, and we've thought of a couple of ways for Rick to get rid of that mob, and in effect their leverage. For example, they could burn them all to cinders in the night, or maybe devise other countermeasures at home.

We've already seen how effective they are at corralling walkers, but a group that size? Who knows?

Stay tuned!

Thanks for taking the time to read this! Hope to see you at Comic-Con!

-Michael Patton, longtime reader

New York Comic-Con? See you there!

Loving the new sky bound exclusive michonne figure. I was wondering if there are any plans to make comic figures like Tyreese, Morgan, Lori, Heath, or someone like that. Maybe some older characters that have a large following/fan base? That would be sick. Not sure if this will be printed but i just wanted to throw out suggestions. Thanks, man.

James Ruth
Memphis, Tn

Thanks! For those of you that don't know, Skybound releases exclusive action figures around four times a year, and made available in our online store. We have two more coming out this year, one debuting at NYCC, one on Black Friday. They're more recent characters than the those you named, but no less popular. Or hated.

Hey Guys

Craziness is about to ensue with the border. I can't wait to see two nations fight, but more to see what advantage Rick's clan will come up with to neutralize the walkers that the Whisperers will use. And one thing that I REALLY hope you do would have the Whisperers kill a member of our group, allow them to zombify, and then skin them to wear to mess with everyone's head. Please make that happen.

Sure. I mean, where are all those bodies that used to be attached to those heads?

1 question. Were the heads on the sticks still biting? By that I mean did the stick damage the brain when they skewered it so that the heads wouldn't zombify? I can't see how the brains wouldn't be damaged, but the panel with Ezekiel looked a lot like he was looking and biting at Rick. I think that would send so much more of a message too. Alpha telling them that those heads are basically on their side now.

Keep up the good work.

Johnny

The sticks didn't pierce all the way up into the brain... so yeah, those heads were fully zombified.

Hi guys,
I just finish reading 144 and I just need you to say thanks for not killing Father Gabriel. Actually now thinking about it I have not seen him in a long time, where is he?

A lot of people complain about Michonne and all the stuff, but I don't see anyone asking for Gabriel, come on people Gabriel is awesome. Shame on folks who doesn't care about him.

Actually, this might be our most popular question. I'm going to keep running it until we

see Gabriel speak again. I'm not even that big a fan, but he's always had a unique perspective when the community's hurting.

Also thanks for not killing Earl Sutton, he is the boss

Agreed.

From Costa Rica,
Marco

We'll be seeing a lot more from Earl Sutton!

And Gabriel... eventually... I guess.

Hey TWD Team!

Kirkman, Adlard, Gaudiano, Rathburn. That was the goddamn creepiest feeling I've ever felt reading an issue. Reading it was actually an experience. Going into it thinking there would be A death had me worried. But as I was flipping panel... by panel... by panel... the heads just kept coming! I was convinced they wouldn't stop! You guys are the most sick, despicable, vile, dastardly people whose work I've ever had the pleasure of reading. And for that, I thank you.

On from the ushy-gushy stuff! My question! So, with the Whisperers initial reveal I was under the impression they were wearing human flesh. But now that it is established they wear roamer skin, how do they pull that off without any sort of infection? In AoW we saw the power of zombie gunk, so wouldn't a small cut on a Whisperer be a death sentence? In issue 140 we see the Whisperers camp and in the distance we can see the tanning of some sort of hides. Are these roamer skins and that's how they remove infectious gunk on the skin or something else entirely?

First time writer from ON!

- Kyle

Just to get this on the record once and for all... and it is complicated, I know... here's how zombification works. Whatever makes people come back as zombies after they die--it's inside them. It's inside everyone. No matter how anybody dies, as long as the brain is intact... they turn into a zombie.

So what the fuck does a bite do?

Well... bites, and direct to blood contact with zombie gunk, like the Saviors attacked with, causes death. It's a strong infection that leads to fever that kills someone. Then the "virus" or whatever is already in them... turns them into a zombie.

So the Whisperers... clean the skin of the dead, zombie or otherwise. It's essentially human leather at that point. They were seen stretching it out and drying it in recent issues. The skin is processed. It masks their smell, and makes them smell a little dead, which allows them to move among the dead, but the inside of it... very clean and safe. I hope that clears things up.

While you wait for the next issue, don't forget to check out Fear the Walking Dead on AMC! You probably already are, but just want to make sure you're all aware of the new Walking Dead TV spinoff... and by the time #147 hits stores, TWD Season 6 will have premiered as well! Jeez, is there any better time to be a Walking Dead fan? If we do any more shows, I'm not going to have room for letters!

-Sean Mackiewicz

More shows?! Sounds like a good idea!

-Robert Kirkman

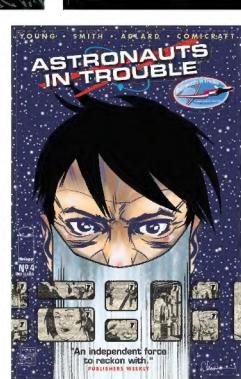
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THE WALKING DEAD #147
ON SALE OCTOBER 2015



OUTCAST #12
ON SALE NOW



**ASTRONAUTS
IN TROUBLE #4**
ON SALE NOW



INJECTION #5
ON SALE NOW



Image

MILLAR - ALBUQUERQUE

HUCK

WHAT IF THE PERSON YOU
LEAST EXPECTED HAD
AN AMAZING SECRET?



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SOMETHING WICCA
THIS WAY COMES...

OCTOBER 2015

